

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming system which is for forming a fixed image on one of the sides of a plurality of recording media and variable images different from each other on the other of the sides of the recording media ~~and comprises~~ comprising:

a printing information output unit which outputs fixed image data representing the fixed image and a plurality of pieces of variable image data each representing a variable image; ~~and~~

an image forming apparatus which forms images on opposite sides of the recording media on the basis of the fixed image data and the variable image data output from the printing information output unit; ~~wherein the improvement comprises~~

a storage portion which is provided in the image forming apparatus to store the fixed image data output from the printing information output unit; ~~[[,]]~~

a printing information output control means which causes the storage portion to store the fixed image data output from the printing information output unit and to hold the stored fixed image data until it is used for image formation of the fixed image on a plurality of recording media ~~[[,]]~~; and

an image formation control means which controls the image forming apparatus to read out the fixed image data held in the storage portion to form fixed images on one of the sides of a plurality of recording media and to receive a plurality of pieces of the variable image data output

from the printing information output unit to form variable images on the other sides of a plurality of the recording media;

wherein the printing information output unit attaches identifying data that indicates that data is the fixed image data when outputting the fixed image data; and

wherein the printing information output control means recognizes image data output from the printing information output unit, to which the identifying data is attached, as the fixed image data, and causes the fixed image data to be stored in the storage portion.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming system as defined in claim 1,
wherein in which the printing information output unit displays in a list a plurality of pieces of information representing a plurality of pieces of fixed image data which are stored in advance, and

at the same time, has a fixed image selecting means through which image data representing a fixed image to be formed on said one of the sides of the recording media can be selected out of the plurality of fixed image data.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus which is for a image forming system defined in claim 1, further comprising; and comprises

a storage portion which stores the fixed image data output from the printing information output unit, and

an image formation control means which controls the image forming apparatus to read out the fixed image data held in the storage portion to form fixed images on one of the sides of a plurality of recording media and to receive a plurality of pieces of the variable image data output

from the printing information output unit to form variable images on the other sides of a plurality of the recording media.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming system which is for forming a fixed image on one of the sides of a plurality of recording media and variable images different from each other on the other of the sides of the recording media ~~comprising; and comprises~~

a computer which outputs variable image data representing the variable image of a plurality of pages[[,]]; and

a controller which is provided with a variable image data receipt portion which receives the variable image data output from the computer and an image storage portion which stores a plurality of pieces of fixed image data each representing a fixed image, and outputs the variable image data received by the variable image data receipt portion and a fixed image data stored in the image storage portion; and

a printer which forms images on opposite sides of the recording media on the basis of the fixed image data and the variable image data output from the controller, ~~wherein the improvement comprises that~~

wherein the computer outputs to the controller fixed image designation information for designating one of the plurality of pieces of fixed image data,

wherein the controller selects one of the plurality of pieces of fixed image data from the image storage portion on the basis of the fixed image designation information output from the computer and outputs the selected fixed image data to the printer and thereafter outputs the variable image data of the plurality of pages to the printer, and

wherein the printer is provided with a storage portion which stores the fixed image data output from the controller, a printing information output control means which causes the storage portion to store the fixed image data and to hold the stored fixed image data until it is used for image formation of the fixed image on a plurality of recording media, and an image formation control means which controls the image forming apparatus to read out the fixed image data held in the storage portion to form fixed images on one of the sides of a plurality of recording media and to receive a plurality of pieces of the variable image data output from the controller to form variable images on the other sides of a plurality of the recording media;

wherein the controller attaches identifying data that indicates that data is the fixed image data when outputting the fixed image data; and

wherein the printing information output control means recognizes image data output from the printing information output unit, to which the identifying data is attached, as the fixed image data, and causes the fixed image data to be stored in the storage portion.

5. (Original) An image forming system as defined in claim 4 in which the controller and the printer is formed integrally with each other.

6. (New) An image forming system as defined in claim 1, wherein:
the identifying data is data that indicates a page number of zero.

7. (New) An image forming system as defined in claim 4, wherein:
the identifying data is data that indicates a page number of zero.